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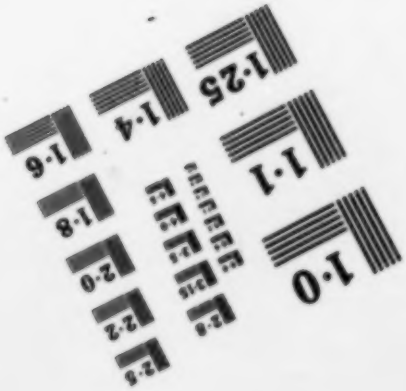

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What's New?

National Library Service
for the Blind and
Physically Handicapped

The Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20542

1991

What's New? is designed for persons already familiar with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). Listed below are descriptions of the most recent enhancements to the NLS program. Please contact your cooperating network library to request any item mentioned, unless otherwise indicated.

Publications

Cassette Books 1990 is available in large print, and the flexible-disc version should be available by the end of 1991. *Braille Books 1989-90* is available in large print, and the braille edition is available on loan. Braille copies for readers to keep are in preparation. Braille editions of *For Younger Readers 1988-89* (listing braille books only) and *Braille Books 1987-88* have been completed. Readers who requested these catalogs on their annual publications order forms should have received them through the mail. Copies of other catalogs produced after 1985 are available on flexible discs you can keep and on voice-indexed cassettes you can borrow through your library.

The bibliography *Short Stories* is available in large print and on flexible discs to keep, and in braille and cassette editions that you can borrow through your library. The braille edition that readers can keep is in production. It lists both recorded and braille short-story collections and is eight volumes long. It will be mailed to readers who ordered it.

Two bibliographies are scheduled, with at least the large-print editions expected to be completed in 1991. They are *Westerns*, to update the one published in 1983, and a bibliography of self-help books, including such topics as alcoholism and drug abuse.

NLS has also prepared several specialized bibliographies for librarians to use in helping readers find books: science fiction (Hugo Award winners), the Middle East, and Nobel

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Prize winners. If you are interested in these subjects, your librarian can easily tell you what the NLS collection offers.

A new booklet is being added to the leisure activity series. *Horses: An Introduction to Horses; Racing, Ranching, and Riding for Blind and Physically Handicapped Individuals* is available in large print. The braille edition is in preparation, and the flexible-disc edition is being planned. NLS has previously published leisure booklets on birding, fishing, sailing, and swimming.

Volunteers Who Produce Books 1990 is scheduled for publication this fall. The directory lists volunteer groups alphabetically by state and indicates the services each provides. It gives information in separate sections on special education resources, proofreaders certified by NLS, and other sources for obtaining materials. It will be produced in large print and in braille.

Also scheduled for fall publication is *Magazines in Special Media*, a listing of periodicals available from various sources in large-print, recorded, embossed, or computer diskette formats. This publication will be available in large-print, disc, and braille editions and will be sent directly to readers who ordered it.

Magazines

Two periodicals have been added to the list of magazines available in braille. *Inside Sports* is a general-interest sports monthly that provides a variety of articles including interviews, in-depth profiles of sports figures, features, and columns and departments dealing with the media, humor, and sports-related topics. *PC/Computing*, also a monthly, offers information on new computer products, tips on computer use, advice for computer consumers, and other informational articles about computers.

In addition to the magazines produced in braille and recorded formats for the national program, some network libraries record or braille other magazines. Usually these are of local interest, but some are available to network readers. NLS has sent a listing of these magazines to your librarian. Contact your local librarian to find out about these network-produced magazines.

Reference materials

Reference circulars are compilations of current information on topics of special interest to handicapped persons. Each reference circular covers a different topic. Circulars published in regular print within the last year include *Learning Disabilities: National Information and Advocacy Resources* and *Building a Library Collection on Blindness and Physical Disabilities: Basic Materials and Resources. Blindness and Visual Impairments: National Information and Advocacy Organizations* is available in regular print and in braille. Reference circulars to be released soon are *Sports, Outdoor Recreation, and Games for Visually and Physically Impaired Individuals* and *Physical Disabilities: National Information and Advocacy Organizations*. Both of these will be in regular print and on flexible disc. *Disability Awareness and Changing Attitudes* will soon be available in regular print.

Other Activities

NLS regularly receives information and advice on its program activity through three ongoing committees: the National Advisory Group on Collection Building, the National Audio Equipment Advisory Committee, and the Publications Advisory Committee. All of these committees include representatives from the major consumer organizations. If you have ideas on the development of the NLS book collection, on playback equipment, or on the improvement of NLS publications, contact your consumer organization for the name of your representative on these committees. The Advisory Group on Collection Building will meet in September and the Audio Equipment Advisory Committee, in October. The Publications Advisory Committee does not meet at regular times, but your representative will forward your suggestions.

The NLS Collection Development Section has a new head--Caroline Longmoor, who served as the Kansas regional librarian before coming to NLS in 1989 as a senior selection librarian. She coordinates the selection of books for the NLS collection.

Talking-book readers around the country are currently testing the first thousand combination machines, which play both discs and cassettes. The results of this test will be studied before the machines are mass produced.

NLS is also studying ways to redesign the braille book containers. Samples from other organizations have been gathered, and NLS plans to design a new container that incorporates the best features from each of the samples.

NLS will soon be offering three new types of certification for people working with braille. The Braille Development Section is beginning to certify proofreaders in braille music and in braille math. Persons seeking certification in these areas must first be certified in literary braille proofreading and then receive further training in the specialized fields. In addition, a National Literary Braille Competency Test is under development. NLS will use this test, expected to be ready by late 1992, to provide certification in braille competency for teachers of blind and visually impaired students.

Your comments and suggestions concerning the NLS program are always welcome. Please feel free to contact the Consumer Relations Officer, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20542, telephone (202) 707-0722.